

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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## Canada

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## This Week in Canadian Agriculture - Issue 10

### Report Categories:

Agriculture in the News

### Approved By:

Robin Tilsworth

### Prepared By:

Darlene Dessureault

Mihai Lupescu

Sonya Jenkins

### Report Highlights:

Canadian Wheat Board Monopoly Forecast to End in August 2012 \* Quick Quiz: What Are the Top Five U.S. Fresh Fruit Exports to Canada? \* SIAL Canada: International Food Expo Proves a Successful Venue for U.S. Food Companies \* Prairie Seeding Progress Slow \* Canadian Farmland Values Keep Increasing

This Week in Canadian Agriculture is a review of Canadian agricultural industry developments of interest to the U.S. agricultural community. The issues summarized in this report cover a wide range of subject matter obtained from Canadian press reports, government press releases, and host country agricultural officials and representatives.11030

*Disclaimer:* Any press article summaries in this report are included to bring U.S. readership closer to the pulse of Canadian developments in agriculture. In no way do the views and opinions of these sources reflect USDA's, the U.S. Embassy's, or any other U.S. Government agency's point of view or official policy.

**Canadian Wheat Board Monopoly Forecast to End in August 2012:** Prime Minister Harper announced his newest cabinet on May 18, 2011 after winning a majority in the May 2, 2011 federal election. The Harper-led Conservative party had been a minority government since coming to power in January 2006. The Honorable Gerry Ritz was re-appointed Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and Minister of the Canadian Wheat Board. Shortly after the new cabinet was announced, Minister Ritz stated that the Conservative government will likely introduce legislation in the fall Parliamentary session that will end the Canadian Wheat Board's (CWB) marketing monopoly in wheat and barley in August 2012, in time for the 2012-2013 marketing year. Minister Ritz said that there will not be a plebiscite; however the changes will be done in consultation with farmers and industry. Issues that the government will have to address include who will take over some of the non-marketing related services currently provided by the CWB including funding for wheat research (done through a check-off program) and scholarships. The Canadian government will also have to determine how the CWB can be a strong competitor without owning any grain elevators or port terminals.

**Quick Quiz: What Are the Top Five U.S. Fresh Fruit Exports to Canada?** If you answered strawberries, table grapes, apples, oranges and cherries, you are correct! A new report shows that U.S. fresh fruit exports to Canada have reached a record high in 2010 after suffering a decline during the 2009 recession. Imports increased 9 percent from 2009 levels and represented \$1.4 billion in trade in 2010. The United States has steadily increased sales of fresh fruit to Canada. Imports of fresh fruits from the United States have increase 51% during the period 2005-2010, from \$920 million to almost \$1.4 billion. The main driving force behind the increased imports is a steady expansion in the consumption of fresh fruits. More on U.S. fresh fruit exports can be found in FAS Canada's report, ***Top Ten U.S. Fresh Fruit Exports to Canada***, GAIN Report number CA11029, which is accessible from the following URL address: <http://gain.fas.usda.gov>. From this site you can perform a search by title or report number.

**SIAL Canada: International Food Expo Proves a Successful Venue for U.S. Food Companies:** Twenty-eight U.S. companies participated in SIAL Canada, an international food trade expo and a perennial favorite with U.S. exhibitors. The event, held for the first time in Toronto, attracted over 12,000 visitors from a variety of different food and beverage sectors. The show will return next year to Montreal and alternate between Toronto and Montreal. In total, U.S. exhibitors' introduced 190 new products. The products that sparked the most interest at the show were Puerto Rican coffee, fresh apples in single serving packages, parboiled rice, Halal kababs, spicy plum chutney, fresh papaya, Halal mortadella, chocolate covered pretzels, peanut snacks, roasted peach whiskey sauce, tahini, pecans, 14 flavors of Greek yogurt, hot cocoa mix, smoothies for food service clients, organic pet supplements,

salad toppings and almond raisin crackers for cheese.

**Prairie Seeding Progress Slow:** The Alberta provincial crop specialist reports that as of May 19, Alberta producers have made significant seeding progress thanks to favorable weather conditions in most of Alberta. He estimates that 50-60% of the seeding is complete, which is in line with the 5-year average. Seeding progress as you move east across the Prairies however, worsens. Saskatchewan reports that only 23% of seeding has been completed as of May 19. This is only 5% below the previous year's level for the same time period; however it is nearly 50% below the 5-year average of 44%. Manitoba seeding rates are even worse. Seeding has only just begun in the southwest region, and seeding progress is around 5% in most areas in the Central region. Seeding progress is also very slow in the eastern region. The coming week will be a critical one as the seeding conditions in the coming week will determine whether or not producers make changes to their seeding plans (switch varieties or switch crops completely).

Seeding progress reports can be viewed at the following URL addresses:

Alberta crop report:

[http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$Department/deptdocs.nsf/all/webdoc13597](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$Department/deptdocs.nsf/all/webdoc13597)

Saskatchewan crop report

<http://www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/crprpt110519>

Manitoba crop report:

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/cropreports/pdf/cr.pdf>

**Canadian Farmland Values Keep Increasing:** Farm Credit Canada (FCC) released their *Spring 2011 Farmland Values Report* which, based on a system of 245 benchmark farm properties, finds that the average value of farmland across the country rose by over 5% in 2010. Values in Ontario, Saskatchewan, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island were shown to have increased the most. The federal agricultural lender attributed the increases to strong demand with limited supply resulting from farmland being viewed as a stable investment with income-generating potential. A copy of the report is available at the following URL address: <http://www.fcc-fac.ca/en/Products/Property/FLV/Spring2011/index.asp#introduction>

**Exchange Rate:** Noon rate, May 18, 2011 (Bank of Canada): U.S. Dollar = C\$0.9701

#### Most Recent Reports from FAS/Ottawa:

Report #	Name of Report	Date Submitted
CA11030	This Week in Agriculture – Issue 10	05/20/2011
CA11029	Top Ten U.S. Fresh Fruit Exports to Canada	05/19/2011
CA11027	This Week in Canadian Agriculture – Issue 9	05/06/2011
CA11025	Agent and Broker Directory – Central Canada	05/03/2011
CA11024	This Week in Canadian Agriculture – Issue 8	04/29/2011
CA11023	2011 Canadian March Planting Intentions	04/29/2011
CA11022	U.S. Wine Exports to Canada Show Explosive Growth	04/21/2011
CA11019	Dairy Trade Flows Between the United States and Canada	04/18/2011

